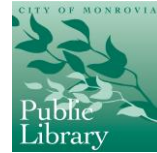




**CITY OF MONROVIA
LIBRARY BOARD
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: Community Services
Library Division

MEETING DATE: September 28, 2023

PREPARED BY: Amanda Carey, Librarian

AGENDA LOCATION: AR-1

TITLE: 2022-23 Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Evaluation

OBJECTIVE: To provide the Library Board with the annual evaluation of the 2022-23 Teen Advisory Board.

BACKGROUND: The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) was formed in June 2009 for sixth through twelfth grade teens to plan events for themselves and their peers at the Library, offer volunteer opportunities, and make suggestions for purchasing materials for the young adult collection. TAB members get involved in the community by assisting with City events, and are able to establish relationships with other teens as well as with adult role models.

Library staff emphasizes the importance of creating a library environment that serves teens from diverse backgrounds, and the rich diversity of TAB enables a wider range of voices to be heard. Staff rely on teen feedback to design programs and purchase collection materials that appeal to teens throughout the community. The TAB program encourages lifelong library users and fosters a sense of empowerment and teamwork amongst teens via their suggestions for programs and services, further connecting teens with the library and with the community.

ANALYSIS: Teen Advisory Board membership includes teens from all walks of life and from different schools in the area served by the library. Local schools include Monrovia High School, Santa Fe Middle School, Clifton Middle School, and area private schools, in addition to homeschool students. The membership also appeals to teens from neighboring communities, including teens attending school in Duarte, Arcadia, Pasadena, and throughout the San Gabriel Valley. Membership is open to all teens in sixth through twelfth grade. To join, teens must fill out an application and waiver, and both documents must be signed by their parent or guardian. The waiver is a formal document approved by the City of Monrovia, asking for emergency medical information and photo release approval, and is kept on file for one year. At the end of the school year, teens interested in continuing their membership submit a new application with updated contact information.

The following information is an overview of the 2022-23 TAB program:

Members: Teen Advisory Board membership started with 59 active teen members at the beginning of September 2022 and ended with 109 members at the end of August 2023. Due to Covid-19 related school closures and limited library operations during the 2020-2021 program year, members were not required to submit new applications, and memberships were retained from the previous year. During the 2021-2022 program year the requirement for re-applications resumed and inactive members began to be removed from the active roster. This culminated with the bulk of members who had not renewed being removed from the roster at the end of August 2022. A total of 52 members were moved to an inactive status. Those removed

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included teens who did not participate in meetings or other TAB activities and did not submit a renewal application for the 2022-23 program year. Others that were removed included teens who had graduated high school, or moved out of the area. Even though there were a number of members removed from the roster due to inactivity at the beginning of the year, overall the library welcomed 50 new members to throughout the 2022-23 year. As the library has returned to regular service, there has been a continued increase in opportunities for TAB members to volunteer as well as an increase of interest in the program. In the 2022-23 year, 57% of TAB members were in 6th through 8th grade, compared to 40% in the 2021-22 year. The remainder of TAB members, 43%, were in 9th through 12th grades, which is a decrease from the previous year's 60%. Several members have graduated from high school and have moved on to college. The majority of new members have been middle school students. The recruitment of new members through word-of-mouth continues to be aided by TAB members.

The following is a comparison of each school's student representation over a three year period.

TAB Membership by School			
School	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Clifton Middle School	45	11	28
Santa Fe Middle School	11	12	10
Monrovia High School	53	41	31
Monrovia Charter Schools	2	n/a	n/a
Home Schools	2	2	1
Arcadia Schools	14	3	7
Duarte Schools	6	4	9
Pasadena Schools	2	2	5
Other	11	10	18

The following information is a comparison of grade level enrollment over a three-year period.

TAB Membership by Grade			
Grade	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Grade 6	1	11	21
Grade 7	28	12	24
Grade 8	42	11	16
Grade 9	20	8	11
Grade 10	40	14	14
Grade 11	13	21	9
Grade 12	2	8	14
Total TAB Members	146	85	109

TAB Council: Several TAB council members have graduated from high school and new council members have been chosen to fill their positions for the 2022-23 year. The members who were interested in serving on the TAB council applied and wrote about what they believe to be TAB's strengths and weaknesses. The application process took place in August to select TAB council members for a term of one year. The 2022-23 TAB Council included the positions High School President, Vice President, and Secretary. The TAB Council led each monthly meeting, under supervision of the TAB supervising librarian.

Programs: The Teen members planned and participated in several events in the 2022-23 school year. In November 2022, TAB members were surveyed about what they like to do at the library and what kinds of events they would like to see for teens. Staff received 17 responses that helped inform programming for the 2022-23 year. The members were asked about their favorite way to spend their time in the library after school. The top responses included; "Chat with friends", "Rest", "Get help with homework", "Do de-stressing activities

like puzzles & coloring”, and “Participate in organized activities”. They were also asked what types of events they would like to see at the library. Overwhelmingly responses were “Board game & Video game events”, “Crafting/Art/Maker events”, “Book Clubs”, “Brain break activities”, and “Guest speakers/ life skills classes”. Using this information, staff debuted several new programs for teens this year. Thanks to a donation from the Friends of the Monrovia Public Library, the library was able to purchase a Nintendo Switch, equipment, and games for use in programs. Staff started Teen Gaming events in January of 2023 and they have quickly become one of the most well attended teen programs. In addition, the library hosted several crafting/maker events for teens which included creating Halloween Terrariums and Sun Printing. Many teens mentioned they wanted a book club so staff hosted a series of informal meet-ups where teens could talk about books, movies, music and more. Attendance for these events was low so TAB members are going to work on other book club options during the 23/24 TAB year. In addition to these new events, staff also brought back the very popular Laser Tag program during the summer.

Projects: Members volunteered their time to represent TAB at Library Board meetings. The teens also played a role in suggesting and planning teen programs, such as Teen Game Nights, Maker Events, and Laser Tag. TAB members also worked with library staff when volunteering to prepare crafts, kits, and activities for patrons to pick-up or use during library programs. They also worked collaboratively on their Discord server to share ideas, ask questions, and engage with one another.

Collaboration: The teens collaborated with the Recreation Division’s Youth Commission to present at the Arbor Day tree planting in Library Park and help with the Spring Egg Hunt at Recreation Park. The members volunteered at the Make a Difference Day event and planned an activity for families during the Thankful and Grateful event. They also had the opportunity to work with the Monrovia Duarte Black Alumni Association again this year for their Children’s Art Exhibit and Black History Month Celebration in February.

Volunteer Hours: This year TAB members volunteered for a total of 1,117 hours. This is compared to the 2021-22 year, where TAB members volunteered a total of 717. The Teen volunteer hours continued to increase this year, as more opportunities were available as the library returned to regular service, including having teen volunteers support the Summer Reading Program with a booth in the lobby on select days throughout the summer. TAB members were able to volunteer at library programming and participate in city-wide events. Other TAB volunteer hours included attending TAB meetings, planning teen events, and representing TAB at Library Board meetings.

Outcomes: The Covid-19 pandemic and impacts of virtual instruction continued to effect teens throughout this school year. Teen feedback throughout the years has shown the significance that TAB plays in the community and the library. Teens have expressed that they feel like they are missing out on social interactions and feel less connected then they did prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. This school year the library was able to continue to bring back in-person programming that allowed more opportunities for teens to participate and connect with each other. In addition, more city-wide events also resumed and gave TAB members the chance to work with other youth organizations and community groups.

With more opportunities available for in-person engagement, staff resumed membership maintenance, including requiring renewal applications yearly. Teen Advisory Board membership overall dropped at the start of the year as members who had not participated in the last two years, graduated from high school, or moved were taken off the active roster. But participation in meetings and events continued to increase this year as more opportunities for community involvement were available including bringing back Summer Reading Volunteer opportunities. Word of mouth about the TAB program also increased, especially in schools outside of the Monrovia Unified School District. Staff welcomed in 50 new members this year compared to 45 new members the previous year. The Teens continued to be an essential connection for teens to the library as they navigated the effects of the pandemic and return to in-person activities. The teen members were able to build community by attending meetings and organizing social events. Since the

pandemic interrupted the social components of teens' everyday lives, Teen Advisory Board was even more crucial in maintaining this connection, ensuring that the library maintained a welcoming and familiar environment for teens through the changes and challenges brought on by the pandemic and it's after effects.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT: There is no environmental impact associated with this program.

FISCAL IMPACT: During the fiscal year of 2022-23, Teen members contributed 1,117 volunteer hours to the library. Based upon a Library Aide wage of \$15.00 per hour, this volunteer support saved the Library \$16,755. The TAB program is funded by donations from the Friends of the Monrovia Public Library.

PROGRAM COMMENTS:

1. Teen Advisory Board remains an engaging program designed to highlight the voices of teens within the community and promote active teen contributions to the Monrovia Public Library.
2. Teen Advisory Board continued serving teens in the community by connecting teens to the library and remaining a vital source of library and community information for teens and their families.

PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Staff recommends increasing outreach opportunities to Monrovia High School to increase the number of high school participants in TAB.
2. Staff recommends renewed recognition incentives for TAB participation and engagement, such as volunteer of the year awards.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Library Board move *to receive and file AR-1 2022-23 Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Evaluation Report*.

LIBRARY BOARD ACTION Required: If the Library Board concurs, the appropriate action would be a motion: ***Receive and file report AR-1 2022-23 Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Evaluation Report.***

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